

# JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## JANUARY 2024

# The Partner

### *“Always New!”*

*“I heard a voice thunder from the Throne: “Look! Look! God has moved into the neighborhood, making his home with men and women! ... The Enthroned continued, “Look! I’m making everything new ...”*  
- Revelation 21:3 & 5 (The Message)

“The Message” has become a very popular paraphrase of the Bible, published by Eugene Peterson in 2013. I love its rendering of this well-known passage, included below in a more familiar translation:

*And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and be their God ... And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.”*  
- Revelation 21:3 & 5 (NRSV)

What a fabulous message for the New Year!

First, it’s such great news and a most welcome reminder that our Almighty God will continue to make His home among us! Isn’t it cool that Jesus Christ is ALWAYS in our neighborhood! And while Jesus is enthroned in our neighborhoods and in our hearts, He’s going to be busy making all things new! Jesus remains with us always, making us new. “Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation,” another favorite scripture assures us (2 Corinthians 5:17)!

This all promises to bless us, as we continue our process as a congregation to discern and decide on our future course of action as a church, following the valuable and thorough assessment or our church completed last year. As we choose together in the months ahead the direction for our church that best fits the Will of God for us, we are sustained by the assurance that God will be leading us, and making us new!

As we continue to enter God’s Gates with thanksgiving and His Courts with praise (Psalm 100), and render unto God the richest worship we can muster, we are inspired to know that God stands ready to make us new!

As we follow Jesus Christ into Loving our Neighbor and Making all

*“Pastor’s Letter” continued on p. 2*

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Rev. Doug Hoffman  
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DIRECTOR OF  
MUSIC/ORGANIST:

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"Pastor's Letter" continued from p. 1

the Disciples we can, we are empowered by a Lord and Savior who is ever-ready to make us new!

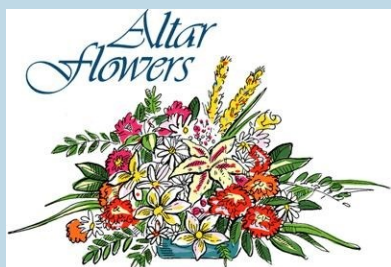
As we endeavor to be and become the best wives and husbands, fathers and mothers, sisters and brothers, and friends and neighbors we can be, we can count on God being ready to make us new each day!

As we strive after every resolution and goal this New Year, we are blessed by the wind Jesus is beneath our wings, making us new day by day!

Happy New Year!

May you personally know the Peace and Joy this year of being made new by our Awesome God, who makes His Home among us, and by our Lord Jesus, who is always in the neighborhood!

Pastor Doug



## Altar Flowers

If you would like to place altar flowers on the altar for 2024, please reserve through the church office. Please fill out the form below or contact Karen in the office. The cost is \$60.

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Date of flowers placed: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory/Honor of (circle one): \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

## NOTE FROM THE TRUSTEES PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Due to a faulty locking mechanism, we have replaced the key lockbox on the back door by the kitchen with a new combination lock. If you need to update your access code, please contact Karen for a new code. Sorry for any inconvenience.



## BUILDING USE POLICY

As we move into 2024, we need to remind you of the building use policy.

This policy is important so that we know who is using the building, when it is being used, what area is being used, and for what purpose. That is so we have no conflicts in scheduling, so that the area will be ready for use, so that the cleaning company can be aware of any scheduled events and can adjust their schedule accordingly.

For the use of space by a group or committee within the church, it is only necessary to give that information to Karen or myself. Karen will keep a master calendar in the office.

Committee meetings that are held on a regular basis and scheduled Coffee Fellowship dates are not required to notify each time, as that information should already be noted in the office.

For use of space by an individual (member) for a small gathering or event, you will be asked to complete a Building Use Form, giving information on requested date(s), requested space, and purpose. Trustees will approve or reject the request.

For use of space by an outside individual or group, a Building Use Form will need to be completed, giving information on requested date(s), requested space and purpose. A fee and/or certificate of insurance may be required. Trustees will review for approval.

Note use of the kitchen is monitored by the Kitchen Committee and has a separate scheduling calendar. Our Kitchen is a commercial kitchen, licensed under the Washington County Health Department. The Building Use Form has a section for separate kitchen use, which will be shared with the Kitchen Committee.

You can check with Karen for availability of a date or space. We thank you in advance for your consideration of notifying the office of expected use of areas in the church building.

*Barbara Hoover, Trustees Property Committee*

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## WESLEYAN CLASS SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Wesleyan Class meets at **9:00** on Sunday morning in the Wesleyan Room. We have a short devotion, a prayer and two hymns. We are currently using the Cokesbury Adult Bible Studies curriculum. Periodically the Youth Class will join us and share in the lesson, and we have also occasionally put the curriculum aside for something a little different in order to share thoughts and discussion.

We invite and would love for you to come and join us on a Sunday morning.

Blessings to you!



## WEDNESDAYS HEAVENLY LIVING WORKSHOP

### Is Your Life Working?

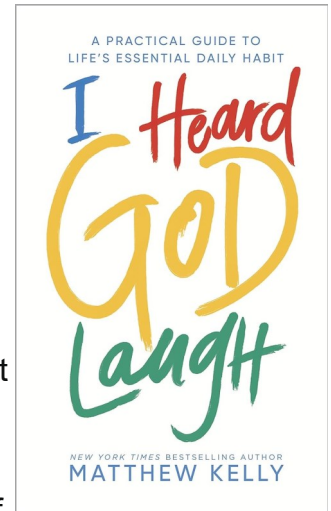
We have an opportunity to engage in a Zoom discussion (Meeting ID: 828 4006 3526 Passcode: 404756 Phone: 1-301-715-8592) each Wednesday from 7:00 pm until 8:30 pm. beginning January 3, 2024. Please join us!!!!

Most of us are trying to put together the jigsaw puzzle we call life without a very important piece. Over time this becomes incredibly frustrating. In this extraordinary book, Matthew Kelly powerfully demonstrates that we cannot live the life we have imagined, or experience the joy we yearn for, unless we learn to tend the soul. From there, with his classic style of practical wisdom, he teaches us how to remedy this problem.

When our bodies are hungry, our stomachs growl. When our souls are hungry, we become irritable, restless, confused, overwhelmed, exhausted, anxious, discontent, and tend to focus on the things that matter least and neglect the things that matter most.

Are you taking care of your soul? Are you feeding it and nurturing it? Or are you ignoring it and neglecting it? The reality is, most people have never really been taught how to tend their souls. *I Heard God Laugh* will help you to do just that, and so much more.

- January 3 – The Unexpected Life
- January 10 – My Spiritual Journey
- January 17 -- Life's Essential Habit
- January 24 – Six Powerful Spiritual Lessons
- January 31 – The God Who Gave Us Laughter



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## PLEASE DONATE TO THE PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

As we continue through the cold weather season, including its several holidays, please prayerfully consider making a donation to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. This fund allows the Pastor to grant emergency help to families in our community in need of financial assistance. Through this Fund, neighbors will receive help to prevent a utility turn-off, prevent an eviction, pay a deposit for a new apartment, purchase groceries, or meet other pressing needs. Normally, we give our assistance in cooperation with assistance from other churches and agencies, in order to meet the total need presented by a family. This allows our Fund to assist a larger number of families throughout the cold-weather season and throughout the year. Thank you for considering your donation to our Fund.



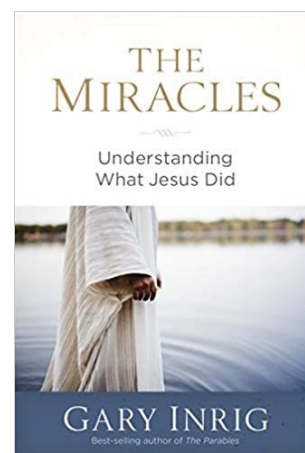
## THURSDAY ZOOM STUDY

We have an opportunity to engage in a Zoom discussion (Meeting ID: 828 4006 3526 Passcode: 404756

Phone: 1-301-715-8592) each Thursday from 2:30 pm until 3:30 pm. beginning January 4, 2024. Please join us!!!!

### Discover Jesus' character through “The Miracles: Understanding What Jesus Did” by Gary Inrig.

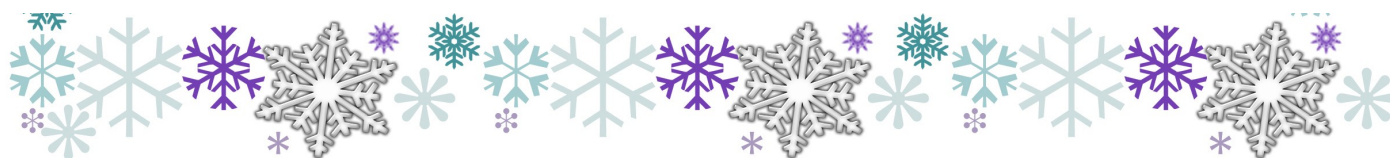
Miracles. Unless you have actually witnessed one, it may be hard to believe that they exist. Yet we have eyewitness accounts from the Bible of thirty-five miracles that occurred at the hand of Jesus, with the mention that there were countless more never recorded.



Jesus's miracles are central to understanding who He is because they are inextricably woven into His life and ministry. From faith-based Christians to hardcore skeptics, all will gain insights into the evidence of Jesus's miracles and why He performed them. You will clearly see that Jesus's acts of supernatural power were purposeful and were marks of His majesty and revealers of His person. Citing Scripture and other supporting sources, Gary Inrig creatively walks us through fourteen biblical miracles to assure you not only that Jesus was a successful miracle worker but that He is exactly who He claimed to be.

#### Discussion Topics:

1. A Sign in the Wine – Turning Water into Wine - January 4
2. Supreme Authority – Teaching & Miracles in Capernaum - January 11
3. Fish Stories – Miraculous Catches of Fish - January 18
4. A Portrait of Grace – Healing a Leper & a Centurion’s Servant - January 25
5. First Things First – Haling the Paralyzed Man - February 1
- \*\* Break for Lent and Holy Week**
6. Storm Lessons – Stilling the Storm - April 4
7. Power Encounter – The Gadarene Demoniac - April 11
8. Helpless but Not Hopeless – Despairing Woman & Desperate Father - April 18
9. Lord of the Sufferer & the Sabbath – Lame Man, the Pool of Bethesda – April 25
10. More Than Enough – Feeding of the Five Thousand - May 2
11. Master of Surprise – Miracles in Gentile Territory - May 9
12. But Now I See – Blind Man in the Temple - May 16
13. The Death Conqueror – Raising of Lazarus – May 23
14. My Lord & My God – Resurrection of Lord Jesus – May 30



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!

THANK YOU to all those who contributed time, money and gifts to make Christmas brighter for our adopted families. Your generosity truly makes a difference in the lives of those less fortunate.



## The Sounds of John Wesley – Capital Campaign - UPDATE Phase II Organ Repairs Scheduled



The following is an update as of November 30, 2023.

Our Goal:	2019 Sound System Upgrade	\$ 11,000 (done)
	Phase I Organ Repairs	6,500 (done)
	Phase II Organ Repairs	17,200 (scheduled) *
	Phase III Organ Repairs	10,700 (2022 estimate)
	Future Phase IV (Peterson Console)	<u>13,000</u> (2022 estimate)
		<b>\$ 58,400</b> (approximate)

To date we have raised **\$37,155**.

We have completed the 2019 Sound System Upgrade, Phase I of the organ repairs, and paid the downpayment for Phase II in order to hold the price .

\*Lawless has scheduled our Phase II repairs to begin on January 2. That repair consists of releathering three more reservoirs. The reservoirs will be removed and taken to their shop to be rebuilt. That also means our organ will be down for the January 7 worship service.

Phase II balance due is **\$10,320**. That means we currently have **\$2,455** to start the funding of Phase III, which can be expected in the next few years.

Our magnificent Moller organ is comprised of 36 registers for a total of 43 ranks and is insured for a \$1,332,000 replacement cost.

In order to reach our total goal we will need **\$21,245**. We remind you the Sounds of John Wesley giving envelopes are included with your regular envelopes.

Thank you for your prayers, your commitment and your generosity.

*“Whatever you do, do all things to the glory of God”*

**The Sounds of John Wesley UMC Task Force**

## Refrigerator Needed!

If anyone has a usable refrigerator they are looking to get rid of, we could use one in our basement area that the Hope & Gratitude NA group uses twice every week. The one that is in there is not working. So it doesn't have to be big, it doesn't have to be beautiful, but it needs to work. And then we will need to figure out how to get it from Point A to Point B. Let the office know if you can help. Thank you in advance!



## Kitchen Use

To Anyone Using the Kitchen —  
When you leave, please make sure the kitchen is as clean (or cleaner) than when you arrived.

Thank you,  
*Kitchen Committee*

And a reminder to be sure you have signed up for use of the Kitchen!

## CREATIVE SATURDAY – DONUT DAY

Did you ever wonder how donuts are made? Now is your opportunity to find out.

On Saturday, January 27, 10 am, we will have a Creative Saturday where you can learn how to make donuts. You will be able to eat them as well, no lessons needed for that.

I will bring some already prepared dough and demonstrate making it as well. Everyone will learn to fry the donuts.

These will be cake donuts rather than ones made with yeast. We learned to use yeast last year.

It was a tradition in my family that we made donuts when school was closed due to snow. I am not hoping for snow when we plan to do this, but the snow date will be the following Saturday if necessary.

If you plan to attend, I need to know by the 23rd! Call me at 301-667-0456 or email at [8weaverbarb@gmail.com](mailto:8weaverbarb@gmail.com).

The cost will be \$3.00 per person. Youth and adults are welcome.

Barb Diefenderfer





# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1st: Laura Bell  
Emily Bolt  
Barbara Jones
- 2nd: Judy Shorb
- 5th: Kevin Hoover  
Lauri Ricker
- 6th: McKenzie O'Connor Metzner
- 7th: Sandra Dennie  
Louise Wine
- 8th: Don Eckard
- 10th: Norris Diefenderfer  
Holly Robison
- 13th: Robin Deavers
- 15th: Meghan Leigh Anne Blair  
Caroline Harsh
- 17th: Michael Shank
- 19th: Tom Routzahn

- 22nd: Buck Shipley
- 23rd: Danny Seiler
- 24th: Amy Ernst
- 25th: Michael McMurtrie  
Kate Suddueth
- 29th: John Gillespie



# JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 10th: Tom & Lori Routzahn
- 24th: Trumer & June Wagner

*(If your birthday or anniversary is this month and does not appear on this list or appears incorrectly, please call the church office or email us at [jwumcmd@yahoo.com](mailto:jwumcmd@yahoo.com) and let us know. Thank you!)*



## Connecting from the Sharing Team

During 2023 we found ourselves holding many events and reconnecting, not only with the congregation, but with the community. We look forward to enjoying more of these events in 2024. Sharing Team operates separately from Leadership Team. Sharing Team is a valuable tool for coordination and support of the many smaller groups. We meet to share thoughts on events for the congregation, developing new ideas and plans for outreach in the community, and how to draw new members into our church.

The Christmas events are now behind us, but we look forward to Lent and Easter. We are planning on holding a Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner again this year. Our REACH week is Feb. 25 – March 3.

The following areas are the areas of discussion during our meetings:

- ◆ Christian Education
- ◆ UMW
- ◆ Creative Saturday
- ◆ Youth Happenings
- ◆ Parish Nursing Ministry
- ◆ Family Life
- ◆ Micah's Backpack
- ◆ Supper Club
- ◆ Kitchen Committee
- ◆ Concert Series
- ◆ Church Banner
- ◆ Celebration Team
- ◆ JW Committee on Relied
- ◆ and any other upcoming event or area of discussion

Sharing Team meetings are open to anyone who would like to share ideas, and “make things happen.” Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of the month via zoom.

Contact Karen in the office or Greg or Barb if you would like additional information to join us.

Blessings,

Greg & Barb Hoover



Our prayers and sympathy  
are extended to  
the family and friends of

**Doris Wood**

who passed away on  
November 24, 2023



Our prayers and sympathy  
are extended to  
the family and friends of

**D. Robert Jones**

who passed away on  
December 7, 2023



- 1st: Church Office Closed
- 3rd: 7:00pm, HLW - "God Laugh"
- 4th: 8:30am, Men's Breakfast
- 4th: 2:30pm, Thursday Zoom Study  
Session 1 - "Miracles"
- 7th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages
- 7th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship
- 8th: 7:00pm, Sharing Team
- 10th: 7:00pm, HLW - "God Laugh"
- 11th: 2:30pm, Thursday Zoom Study  
Session 2 - "Miracles"
- 11th: 7:00pm, Trustees/Property Team
- 14th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages
- 14th: 10:00am, Coffee Fellowship
- 14th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship
- 15th: *Partner* deadline
- 15th: Church Office Closed
- 16th: 6:00pm, Wilson Wright Circle
- 17th: 10:00am, Susanna Circle
- 17th: 7:00pm, HLW - "God Laugh"
- 18th: 2:30pm, Thursday Zoom Study  
Session 3 - "Miracles"
- 21st: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages
- 21st: 10:30am, Sunday Worship
- 21st: 12:00pm, Congregational Meeting
- 22nd: 6:30pm, Leadership Team
- 24th: 7:00pm, HLW - "God Laugh"
- 25th: 2:30pm, Thursday Zoom Study  
Session 4 - "Miracles"
- 27th: 10:00 am, Creative Saturday
- 28th: 9:00am, Sunday School for all ages
- 28th: 10:30am, Sunday Worship
- 31st: 7:00pm, HLW - "God Laugh"

**Attendance & Offering Report**

November	19	51	1,644.46
November	26	45	1,139.46
December	3	41	3,123.86
December	10	43	2,545.78
December	17	65	2,909.46

Blessings, Sheila & Sherry

**SAVE THE DATE**

**213 Congregational Meeting**

Our next 213 meeting with the congregation is scheduled for January 21 (Snow date is January 28). We will be having the meeting after church, and again we will provide a light lunch. Our DS John Wunderlick will be attending. Please plan to attend!

# PUZZLE PAGE



## New INSIDE



Geodes look plain on the outside but contain beautiful crystals. Create these "rocks" to show how God makes us new on the inside.

### What you need:

- Clean cardboard egg carton
- Scissors (and adult help)
- Epsom salt
- Plastic zippered bags (one per color of dye)
- Food coloring
- Glue
- Paintbrush



### What you do:

1. Cut out the tops and bottoms of all the egg compartments so you can make 6 ball shapes.
2. In each bag, put 3 tablespoons of Epsom salt and a drop or two of food coloring. Seal and shake to mix.
3. With the paintbrush, spread glue inside two egg-carton halves. Sprinkle a spoonful of Epsom salt into those halves. Then close and shake.
4. Open your homemade geode and shake out excess salt.
5. Optional: Preserve the crystals with a coat of clear-drying glue.



# HAPPY NEW YOU!

Changing the calendar each January is a reminder that God makes all things new.

*Directions: Use the clues and the calendar code to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV.*

### JANUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	God	night	word	in	love	Jesus
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
glory	therefore	speak	give	light	Christ	a
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
saw	beginning	anyone	waters	help	is	many
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
he	again	through	earth	made	while	back
28	29	30	31			
new	if	and	creation			

- The second Monday \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- The last Monday \_ \_
- The 16th \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- One day before the 20th \_ \_
- The day before the first Friday \_ \_
- The last weekday of the second week \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- The day after the 20th \_ \_
- The day after 18th \_ \_
- The first day of the second weekend \_
- The last Sunday \_ \_ \_
- The last day of the month \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Answers: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.



## JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

# JANUARY 2024 *PARTNER*

### VISION STATEMENT:

*“We strive to be a Christ Centered Church, advancing the Kingdom of God  
by nurturing and ministering to all peoples.”*

### MISSION STATEMENT:

*“Our Mission is to make disciples for Jesus Christ through: Vibrant Worship, Christian Fellowship,  
Spiritual Growth, Loving Service, and the Sharing of God’s Word.”*

